

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Claims 40-47, 73-77 and 85-89 have been canceled, and Claims 90-104 have been added. Claims 90-104 are presented for examination. These claim amendments do not necessitate the payment of any additional fees for excess claims.

Claims 90-104 differ from previously-cited Frailong U.S Patent No. 6,496,858. In particular, they recite a centralized approach to configuration management of plural devices, where configuration information is returned from each device back to a central configuration storage. In contrast, Frailong discloses a distributed approach to configuration in which there is no central configuration storage, and in which configuration information from devices is not returned to any central configuration storage.

Conclusion

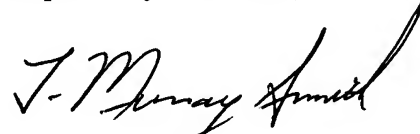
Applicants respectfully request further and favorable consideration of the present application. If the Examiner believes that examination of this application may be advanced in

Appl. No. 10/005,396
Preliminary Amendment Accompanying RCE

Attorney Docket No. 29484.30
Customer No. 27683

any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 972-739-8647.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Murray Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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